

Testimony of John Bestor
Education Committee Public Hearing
Regarding: SB 382 "AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS".
March 7, 2016

I am writing in opposition to SB 382: AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS.

Given the recent history of task force committees, I am concerned that there will NOT be fair representation of members assigned to the task force who will be called upon to consider points-of-view that may run contrary to the State Department of Education.

In the past, Education Task Forces have not been well balanced. This is what occurred on the Governor's Common Core Implementation Task Force and is currently in process on the Mastery Examination Task Force where 16 of the 21 members (including the Education Commissioner) have shown their allegiance to and have actively promoted "education reform" initiatives associated with Common Core Standards, SBAC testing, and the expenditure of taxpayer dollars on the proliferation of "for-profit" charter schools.

The ruse that a task force comprised of like-minded allies can possibly give a fair hearing to the complicated issues of teacher preparation is simply a foolish endeavor.

I am very fearful that the "task force" will attempt to determine what rigid instructional principles should be taught to aspiring teachers. There is danger that the task force will be used as a vehicle for undermining the very foundations of inquiry and innovation that is necessary in 21st Century learning.

At this time, I ask that you vote down SB 382 and protect teacher education training for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

John Bestor
24 Walnut Tree Hill Road
Sandy Hook, CT